

In the Claims:

1. (previously amended) A card connector comprising:
 - an insulative housing with a plurality of contacts for receiving a card;
 - a slider slidably mounted in said housing and being movable between an ejection position for ejecting said card from said housing and a card receiving position for receiving said card in said housing;
 - a lock member held by and being movable along with said slider for engaging a cutout on a lateral edge of said card to lock said card in said card receiving position said lock member comprises a fixed end portion fixed on said slider;
 - a positioning mechanism for positioning said slider in said ejection position and said card receiving position;
 - a free end portion being supported by contacting a support surface of said housing when in said card receiving position and being separated from said support surface when in said ejection position; and
 - a spring piece with an engagement protrusion for engaging said cutout; wherein
 - when said slider is in said ejection position, said free end portion flexes to disengage the engagement with said cutout of said card by the extraction of said card; and
 - when said slider is in said card receiving position, said free end portion elastically deforms while contacting said support surface to disengage the engagement with said cutout by the forced extraction of said card.
2. (original) The card connector as defined in claim 1, wherein:
 - said free end portion of said lock member is a tongue for contacting said support surface;

said engagement protrusion engages with the engagement surface of said lock member;
said tongue piece and said engagement surface are disposed closer to one side in the width direction of said spring piece; and

said engagement protrusion elastically deforms in a twisting manner around said fixed end portion when it receives said forced extraction force to disengage the engagement with said cutout.

3. (previously added) The card connector of claim 2, wherein said positioning mechanism includes a cam groove formed on said housing and a cam follower structured to move in said cam groove according to the movement of said slider.

4. (previously amended) A card connector comprising:
an insulating housing having a plurality of contacts for receiving a card;
a slider being movable between card release and card engagement positions;
a lock member having a fixed end portion being fixed to the slider and an engagement protrusion that engages the card;

a positioning mechanism that moves the lock member between a card release position and a card engagement position and secures the lock member in the card engagement position;
and

the lock member having a portion that elastically deforms to disengage from the card when the lock member is secured in the card engagement position and the card is forcibly extracted.

5. (previously amended) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member includes a free end portion that moves away from the card to disengage the engagement protrusion from the card when the lock member is in the card release position.
6. (previously added) The card connector of claim 5, wherein the housing includes a support surface that supports the free end portion in the card engagement position.
7. (previously added) The card connector of claim 5, wherein the free end portion and the engagement protrusion are offset in a width direction of the lock member.
8. (previously added) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the slider is attached to the positioning mechanism that moves the lock member between the card release position and the card engagement position.
9. (previously added) The card connector of claim 8, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a cam groove formed on the housing and a cam follower structured to move in the cam groove according to the movement of the slider.
10. (previously added) The card connector of claim 9, wherein the cam groove includes a plurality of linear paths and oblique surfaces that guide the cam follower through the linear paths.

11. (previously added) The card connector of claim 8, further comprising a compression spring that urges the slider toward the card release position.
12. (previously added) The card connector of claim 4, further comprising a compression spring that moves the lock member between the card release position and the card engagement position.
13. (previously added) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a cam follower positioned in a groove in the housing.
14. (previously added) The card connector of claim 4, further comprising tongues that engage an outer surface of the card to prevent the card from ejecting at an excessive speed.
15. (previously added) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member is formed from a metal plate.
16. (previously added) The card connector of claim 4, wherein the lock member deforms by twisting to disengage from the card.